

MindFreedom International

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1 September 2007

Dear Highlander 75th Anniversary Celebrants:

On behalf of MindFreedom International and the movement to change the mental health system -- affectionately known as the "**Mad Movement**" -- we join you in celebrating 75 years of people-based movement building!

While I cannot join you, a key activist in MindFreedom International is attending, Kristina Yates from California. Kristina is a story teller from a poor Appalachian background. She survived forced electroshock in the mental health system, and became accredited as a family counselor! Kristina can tell you Highlander played an important role in MindFreedom. We held strategy events there, drawing upon your rich history.



Today, 1 September 2007, is a special date that links us all up! Forty-years ago on this date, Martin Luther King, Jr. made one of his many statements about how we all ought to be what psychologists call "*maladjusted*." On that date MLK made one of his main statements on this theme in front of the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

MLK said, as he did many times for many years, that, "...our world is in dire need of a new organization, **The International Association for the Advancement of Creative Maladjustment**." People thought it was a joke.

I am proud to report that our social change movement led by psychiatric survivors, in the spirit of Mad Pride, has launched MLK's dream of the IAACM in reality. Thank you for your work for a nonviolent revolution!

David Oaks

David Oaks, Director, MindFreedom International

www.MindFreedom.org

Win Human Rights in Mental Health